



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION III - OFFICE OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
841 Chestnut Building Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107-4431
Phone - 215/566-5120 Fax - 215/566-5102

EPA Environmental News

Contact: Lynn Campbell Wingert
(215) 566-3117
July 23, 1997

EPA Declares Delaware Hazardous Waste Site Clean

PHILADELPHIA - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced today that a review of conditions at Sealand Limited, a Superfund hazardous waste site in Mount Pleasant, New Castle County, confirms the site is no longer a hazard to human health and the environment. Therefore, the site has been deleted from the Superfund's National Priorities List, a list of the most hazardous sites in the country.

"In Delaware, we have taken two sites off the list in two years," said Abraham Ferdas, Acting Director of EPA's mid-Atlantic states Hazardous Waste Management Division. "We are meeting our goals of faster cleanups, while being protective of health and the environment."

The New Castle Spill site was declared clean and taken off the National Priorities List in 1996. Delaware's only previous list deletion was New Castle Steel Co., in 1989.

Seventeen sites remain on the National Priorities List in the state. Cleanup activities are complete at eight of those sites and final site reviews for deletion are pending. EPA's policy generally requires that sites be deleted after at least one five-year review has been conducted following cleanup completion to ensure the cleanup measures are effective.

Sealand Limited began operating a waste oil recycling business in 1982. The tenants abandoned the facility in 1983, leaving 22 storage tanks, a boiler house, drums, and a 10,000-gallon wooden storage tank. The wooden tank and drums were leaking creosotes, solvents and other toxic compounds.

-more-

Sealand - 7/23

Page Two

EPA took emergency action at the site, removing 240,000 gallons of coal tar, 320 55-gallon drums containing creosote-related chemicals and 80 cubic yards of solid waste. EPA installed a clay cap covered with top soil to contain soil contamination.

Parties responsible for contaminating the site completed an intensive study of the nature and extent of contamination in 1991, with EPA oversight. The study revealed that, as a result of the timely actions taken by EPA, the site no longer posed a risk.

A 1996 review of site conditions confirmed the earlier study, and Sealand Limited was proposed for deletion from the National Priorities List in February, 1997. The State of Delaware concurred with the deletion decision.

The site is located a few hundred yards east of the intersection of Routes 301 and 896, opposite a granary and along the rail road tracks, near Middletown. "Before" photos, showing drums and rusted storage tanks, are available upon request.

On-site interviews with the site project manager can be arranged by calling Lynn Campbell Wingert at (215) 566-3117.

- # -